THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES POLICY COMMITTEE
Chair: vacant
Vice-Chair: Eric Gardner (WA)

Friday, March 8, 2019
8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

84th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference
Room TBD/ Sheraton Denver Downtown, Denver, CO

Agenda

8:00am  Call to order, introductions, and review agenda – Eric Gardner, all
8:10am  Review and adoption of minutes – All
8:15am  Presentation: Assessing Decision-Risk in Species Range Maps and Distribution Models for Use in Conservation and Management – Thomas Edwards, Research Scientist and Assistant Leader; USGS, Cooperative Research Units Program (t.edwards@usu.edu)
  • ABSTRACT: All spatially-based (landscape-scale) management relies to some extent on knowledge of species distributions. At the level of the Endangered Species Act, distributions are clearly integral to ESA-related Federal Register documentation. Defensible distributions are equally integral to state-based Wildlife Action Plans, as well as being important to land management agencies such as the BLM, NPS, and USFS.
  • Question and answer session
9:15am  FWS Update: Using SDMs to improve current range maps for select listed species – Gary Frazer, FWS
  • Why the FWS is doing this, the data being used, who is involved, and the desired outcome
  • Activities and plans for this year
  • Opportunity for collaboration with the states? Question and answer period.
  • Modeling approaches for which these BMPs are intended include Species Distribution Models, Population Viability Analyses, climate vulnerability assessments, and climate envelope models.
9:35am  Presentation: DOD/DOI Recovery and Sustainment Partnership – Cindy Dohner (Contractor) on behalf of Ryan Orndorff, DOD Environmental Programs, Director
  • Discussion of state/DOD conservation opportunities and how to connect; question and answer
9:55am   Break

10:10am Update on the status of Monarch conservation across the states
•   Actions in the mid-America region – Ed Boggess, Claire Beck, Bill Moritz
•   Actions in the western region – TBD

10:25am Update: Conservation without Conflict – Cindy Dohner on behalf of Jimmy Bullock, Catch-a-Dream Foundation

10:35am Update on the FWS’s national listing workplan and other important information – Gary Frazer, FWS
•   Are some of the SSA reviews, recovery plan updates, timelines, etc. available online and where?
•   What are the opportunities to coordination with states, and other partners, on listing workplans?
•   State discussion: How are states managing to stay engaged on the long list of petitioned and candidate species as well as status reviews, and recovery plan updates for listed species? – All

11:05am Federal Partner updates: NMFS (Angela Somma), BLM (Kim Trip), USFS, USGS, NPS, NRCS, others?
•   Information/timing of proposed ESA regulations issued July 2018, and next steps?
•   What are the impacts to federal agencies’ actions from FY2019 Congressional appropriations?
•   Ongoing and new priorities for federal agencies and what it means for existing/other T/E efforts?

11:05am Legislative Updates & Discussions
•   Recovering America’s Wildlife Act – Jen Mock Schaeffer, AFWA
•   Natural Resources Management Act (S. 47)
   o   Appropriations processes and deadlines: What are our needs and priorities?
   o   Sharing Congressional appropriations requests – Steve Homer, ABC

11:55am Identify committee business between meetings and action items for the Business Meeting
•   Webinar on the FWS’s PECE Policy: what is it and how does it work?
•   Interim States’ Roundtable discussion: successes, challenges, and needs?

12pm Adjourn, Eric Gardner, vice chair

Committee Charge:
•   Review procedural or categorical problems affecting threatened and endangered species listings and de-listing and critical habitat proposals as reported in the Federal Register and suggest appropriate action.
•   Keep abreast of legislative proposals and oversight hearings and recommend Association involvement.
•   Maintain active liaison with appropriate federal agency offices, the conservation community, states and regional associations.
•   Serve as the subject matter and support group on endangered species that are covered by CITES or other international arrangements.
•   Subcommittees and Working Groups: ESA and Climate Change Working Group